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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. **INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Prevalence of Infectious Disease in
East China

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. In mid-December 1951 the Medical Department of the East China Military and Administrative Committee and the Medical Department of the East China Military Area were jointly planning to call technical meetings to study the prevention and cure of Hsuehhsich'ung (血吸蟲)¹, a disease which has been prevalent in East China for some time.
2. Statistics compiled in October 1951 showed 97 hsien of East China to be affected by this disease. They were as follows:
 - a. In south Kiangsu: 22 hsien, of which Ch'ingp'u (121-07, 31-10) and Sungchiang (121-15, 31-01) were among the most highly infected areas.
 - b. In north Kiangsu: 14 hsien, of which Kaoyu (119-28, 32-46) was the most highly infected.
 - c. In Chekiang: 39 hsien, of which K'aihua (118-23, 29-09) and Chuchi (102-13, 29-44) were the most highly infected areas.
 - d. In south Anhwei: 16 hsien, with Chich'i (118-34, 30-04) the most highly infected.
 - e. In north Anhwei: 2 hsien, with this area comparatively less infected.
 - f. In Fukien: 4 hsien, with Maw (119-26, 25-59) the most highly infected.

No hsien in Shantung were affected.
3. Statistics compiled in April (sic) 1951 showed over 4,700,000 persons in the above 97 hsien suffering from the disease; this did not include unidentified cases or scattered victims throughout the areas. As of mid-December, the majority of people infected were peasants and fishermen. The disease was not serious among troops, although some had been victims because of the active preventative and curative measures they had instituted.
4. The symptoms of the disease are yellow skin, emaciation, and swelling abdomens.

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The infection is contracted from drinking water; from shells found along the coast and in lakes and ponds, including conches, scallops, and ribbed shells; from frogs and clams with thick white shells; and from root plants of flooded fields, including water chestnuts and sagittari sagittifolia² which have hsuehhsiyuanch'ung (似吸虫) attached. The chief cure is sanchiat'i (三價錫), a medicine formerly imported but certain amounts of which now can be manufactured within Communist China. Treatment of the disease, however, is limited by the lack of this medicine and of qualified medical personnel.

5. As of mid-December, the East China authorities were placing the blame for the widespread infection on the Nationalist Government's failure to provide adequate medical care for the working population. At the same time they were planning to launch a general campaign for the prevention and cure of the disease.

- 25X1 1. [] Comment. This may be schistosomiasis.
- 25X1 [] Comment. [] reported epidemic schistosomiasis among East China military in early January 1952. 25X1
- 25X1 2. [] Comment. Edible bulbs of a water plant.

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